

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the paragraph (Abstract) beginning at page 33, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

ABSTRACT

A refrigeration apparatus ~~constituted so that, by using~~ utilizes a separation membrane, ~~it can to~~ separate and eliminate ~~the a~~ noncondensable gas, ~~in a state mixed with from~~ a refrigerant inside a refrigerant circuit, ~~which was left inside a refrigerant connecting pipe during on-site construction, wherein the efficiency of separating the noncondensable gas in the separation membrane is improved. An air conditioner (1) comprises a refrigerant circuit (10), wherein a heat source unit (2) and a utilization unit (5) are connected via a refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 7), and is provided with~~ The refrigeration apparatus has a gas separation apparatus (31). The gas separation apparatus (31) ~~comprises~~ includes a separation membrane apparatus (34) connected to a liquid side refrigerant circuit (44) that connects a heat source side heat exchanger (23) and a utilization side heat exchanger (51). The separation membrane apparatus (34) ~~comprises~~ has a separation membrane (34b) that, ~~by operating a compressor (21) and circulating refrigerant inside the refrigerant circuit (10), can separate~~ from the refrigerant and discharges out of the liquid side refrigerant circuit (44) the noncondensable gas remaining in ~~the a~~ refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 7).